

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS STATE 176373

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: VALIDITY OF KENYA DRIVERS' LICENSE IN U.S.

REF: NAIROBI 6084

1. FOLLOWING IS IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY FONMIN
(REFTEL):

A. A KENYA DOMESTIC DRIVING LICENSE CAN BE VALIDATED IN
THE U.S. BY THE AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION (AAA)
FOR DRIVING IN THE U.S. FOR ONE YEAR FOLLOWING THE DATE OF
ENTRY ON THE PASSPORT. THE PERSON MUST BE IN TOURIST
STATUS. AS SOON AS THE PERSON IS NO LONGER IN TOURIST

STATUS, A LOCAL U.S. LICENSE MUST BE OBTAINED. MEMBERSHIP
IN THE AAA IS NOT REQUIRED.

B. AN INTERNATIONAL LICENSE, WHICH MUST BE OBTAINED OUTSIDE
THE U.S., IS VALID IN THE U.S. FOR ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE
OF ITS ISSUANCE.

C. IF THE PERSON REMAINS IN THE U.S. FOR MORE THAN ONE
YEAR, EVEN THOUGH STILL IN TOURIST STATUS, A LOCAL U.S.

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LICENSE MUST BE OBTAINED.

D. ALTHOUGH STATES WILL SOMETIMES WAIVE A ROAD (DRIVING) TEST IF THE PERSON HAS AN INTERNATIONAL LICENSE, THE WRITTEN TEST MUST ALWAYS BE TAKEN TO OBTAIN A LOCAL LICENSE. (THE ROAD TEST WILL NOT BE WAIVED IF THE PERSON ONLY HAS A KENYA DRIVERS' LICENSE.)

E. PERSONS WHO ENJOY PRIVILEGES UNDER THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR RELATIONS AND THE CONVENTION ON THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, HOLDING THEIR COUNTRY'S DOMESTIC DRIVING LICENSES, BUT WITHOUT POSSESSING INTERNATIONAL DRIVING LICENSES, CAN OBTAIN A U.S. DOMESTIC DRIVING LICENSE

1) IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BY PASSING THE WRITTEN AND THE EYE TESTS. THE ROAD TEST MUST BE TAKEN ONLY IF THE PERSON DOESN'T HAVE A VALID DRIVING LICENSE (EITHER FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY OR AN INTERNATIONAL ONE); OR
2) IN VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND BY PASSING THE ROAD, THE WRITTEN AND THE EYE TESTS. THE ROAD TEST IS NOT WAIVED NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF DRIVING LICENSE THE PERSON HAS.
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